

**Hanford Engineers Week Committee
Richland, Wash.**

News Release

**Contact: Andrea Hopkins
(509) 539-5520
Karen Welsh
(509) 376-2151
Geoff Tyree
(509) 372-1145**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANFORD ENGINEERS REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY DURING NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK FEBRUARY 19-25

RICHLAND, Wash.—Feb. 16, 2006 – Science and engineering professionals from leading Hanford companies have organized under the Hanford Engineers Week Committee to make presentations in local elementary, middle, and high school classrooms in celebration of National Engineers Week (Feb. 19-25).

Today, opportunities in engineering abound and the profession requires a continuing replenishment of the creative thinkers and adept problem solvers. National Engineers Week provides an opportunity for practicing scientists and engineers to reach out and energize the next generation of engineering talent.

By the end of the month, more than 8,000 students will have come in contact with engineers and scientists from Bechtel National, Inc., CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Fluor Hanford, and Fluor Government Group who are making classroom presentations.

In addition to classroom presentations, students will have the opportunity to enter a poster competition—with the theme of “What Engineering Means to Me”—and win \$100, \$50, or \$25 for first, second, and third place, respectively.

(more)

On Saturday, Feb. 25, Hanford professionals will conduct hands-on demonstrations in engineering and science at the Columbia Center Mall from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Demonstrations will include a variety of engineering equipment such as robots that can be programmed to perform activities, remote manipulators that are similar to those used in hazardous environments, a ‘Van de Graff’ generator that illustrates electrostatic energy (up to 200,000 volts), and a vacuum jar that can inflate and deflate marshmallows and “boil” water at room temperature—similar to the process used to dry 2,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel that was removed from Hanford’s K Basins.

“The activities endorsed by the Hanford Engineers Week Committee are varied, and they open avenues of participation for children of diverse interests,” said Fluor Hanford’s Andrea Hopkins of the Hanford Engineers Week Committee. “Children find that engineering can be expressed through art and other areas as well as math and science. Telling students to stay in school and study math and science are very important messages in terms of helping them stay on track for a professional career.”

###